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CITY OF EDMONTON

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT

1927



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CITY OF EDMONTON

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Health Department Report, 1927

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Members of the Local Board of Health

Doctor Harold Orr, Chairman; Doctor D. B. Leitch, Alderman J. W. Findlay

Ex-Officio Members

His Worship Mayor Bury; Dr. T. H. Whitelaw, M.O.H.
A. W. Haddow, Esq., City Engineer
S. Main, Secretary

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	T. H. Whitelaw, B.A., M.B.
Chief Health Officer	S. Main
Health Inspector	R. T. Anderson
Chief Sanitary Inspector	W. R. Graham
Sanitary Inspector	J. M. Highet R.P.C. A.I.S.E.
Sanitary Inspector	G. Howland
Sanitary Inspector	J. H. Blackburn
Chief Food Inspector	J. H. Burnet, V.S.
Food Inspector	T. E. Lord
Milk Inspector and Chemist	H. C. Graham, B.A.
Dairy Inspector	C. Ellinger
Accountant	Miss B. B. Murray
Stenographer	Mrs. K. P. Bernardine
Chief Welfare Nurse	Miss B. Bean, R.N.
Child Welfare Nurse	Miss M. Griffiths, R.N.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1927

REVENUE

Inspection Fees	\$ 378.00
Cemetery Fees	2,163.50
Ambulance Fees	695.50
	<u>\$ 3,237.00</u>
Balance cost of operation	30,574.22
	<u>\$33,811.22</u>

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$27,728.01
Printing, Postage and Stationery	383.19
Transportation	3,279.44
Telephones	200.95
Miscellaneous	217.25
Uniforms	216.00
Disinfection and Quarantine	236.02
Cow and Dairy Inspection	63.34
Burial of Paupers	30.00
Ambulance	941.40
Smallpox	515.62
	<u>\$33,811.22</u>

ANNUAL REPORT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Board of Health and City Commissioners.

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Department of Health, City of Edmonton for the year ending December 31st, 1927.

The outstanding events of the year were the unusual prevalence of Polio Myelitis in the late summer and autumn months, and the outbreak of Smallpox during the first three months. These are considered more fully under their special heads in this report. With these exceptions the general health conditions have been unusually good as indicated by the low rates of mortality, both general and infantile, a high birth rate and a lowered incidence of the ordinary communicable diseases.

Summary of Statistics

Area of City (including 1,000 acres of water)	27,520 acres
Population in excess of but estimated at	67,000
Persons per acre of land	2.43
Natural increase of population (excess of births over deaths)	1,147
Still births	66
Births excluding still born	1,934
Birth rate per 1,000 population	29.
Deaths excluding still born and non-residents	482
Death rate per 1,000 population	7.2
Deaths of non-residents	305
Total deaths including non-residents	787
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age (city cases only)	98
Deaths of infants under 1 year including outside city cases	112
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births (city cases only)	50.67
Infantile mortality rate including outside city cases	57.9
Marriages	1,115
Rate of marriages per 1,000 population	16.64

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

The number of cases admitted during 1927 including 53 non-infectious medical and chronic cases from age or disability, was 642, while 594 were discharged and 27 deaths occurred, of which 21 were due to infectious causes and 6 to non-infectious. The death rate among infectious conditions was 3.7 per cent. while from non-infectious and chronic conditions it was 11 per cent.

Classified by disease these 624 patients were as follows:

Scarlet Fever	229
Scarlet Fever with Diphtheria	1
Scarlet Fever with complications	6
Diphtheria	96
Post Diphtheria Paralysis	5
Smallpox	33
Smallpox complications	1
Infantile Paralysis	59
Chickenpox	9
Measles	8
Measles complications	1
German Measles	2
Mumps	6
Whooping Cough	8
Erysipelas	30
Erysipelas with mumps	1

Meningitis	3
Typhoid	1
Opthalmia neonatorum	1
G. C. Vaginitis	8
Influenza	1
Barbers Itch	1
Scabies	16
Infected eyes	1
Impetigo	2
Infected finger	1
Vincent's Angina	3
Tonsillitis	5
Suspect cases	33
Non-infectious	6
Medical and Chronic	47
Total	624

Causes of death and percentage were as follows:

	Cases Admitted	Deaths	Per Cent.
Scarlet Fever	236	4	1.7
Diphtheria	96	4	4.1
Erysipelas	30	2	6.6
Meningitis	3	3	100.
Infantile Paralysis	59	4	6.7
Whooping Cough	8	2	25.
Pneumonia	—	1	—
Tuberculosis (chronic case)	—	1	—
Paralysis	—	2	—
Mumps with Septicaemia	—	1	—
Premature infant	—	1	—
Medical non-infectious cases	—	2	—
Total	—	27	—

Owing to the comparatively small number of the usual infectious diseases existing at the time, it was possible to isolate and treat satisfactorily 33 cases of Smallpox during the short period of prevalence of this disease early in the year. Beds were also found to be available for the 53 non-infectious, Medical incurable and Chronic cases admitted during the year, which could not conveniently be given accommodation in the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

That the Hospital is admirably fulfilling expectations as a factor in the control of infectious disease, also lessening greatly the necessity for home quarantine is indicated by the following figures which indicate that 92 per cent. of all Scarlet Fever and over 90 per cent. of all Diphtheria cases were hospitalized.

	Total Cases	Admitted	Per Cent.
Scarlet Fever	257	236	92
Diphtheria	96	87	90
Smallpox	54	33	61

There has been no serious difficulty experienced with cross infections during the year, except with Chickenpox developing in the wards as a result of cases of Scarlet Fever being admitted which were incubating Chickenpox when admitted. To entirely prevent such possibilities it would be necessary to have all cases of Scarlet Fever isolated in individual wards for at least two (2) weeks, which with our present accommodation is impossible.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTED DURING THE YEAR AND
CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR 1926 AND 1925**

	City Cases			Outside Cases			Totals		
	1927	1926	1925	1927	1926	1925	1927	1926	1925
Smallpox	50	6	3	5	6	3	55	8	5
Diphtheria	80	72	45	16	6	9	96	78	54
Scarlet Fever	257	362	340	31	24	11	288	386	351
Chickenpox	498	870	368	2	2	0	500	872	368
Measles	43	2687	259	6	5	1	42	2692	260
German Measles	13	2428	176	0	0	0	13	2428	176
Mumps	863	1017	112	2	0	1	865	1017	113
Whooping Cough	292	860	586	2	1	1	294	861	587
Tuberculosis	15	17	23	21	45	20	36	62	43
Erysipelas	25	27	22	13	11	11	38	38	33
Cerebro Spinal									
Meningitis	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	3	3
Typhoid Fever	4	0	8	17	10	9	21	10	17
Anterior Polio									
Myelitis	96	0	1	13	0	0	109	0	1
Ophthalmia									
Neonatorum	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Encephalitis									
Lethargica	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Totals	2238	8240	1945	131	109	67	2369	8349	2012

Minor Infections

As anticipated epidemic conditions during 1926 of Measles and German Measles when 5,110 cases were reported has been followed this year by comparative freedom from these diseases, there having been only 62 cases throughout the year. The other minor infections Mumps, Whooping Cough, and Chickenpox, while more prevalent than Measles show a considerable reduction over the figures for 1926.

Smallpox

The outbreak of this disease which began in January with 5 cases increased rapidly to 31 cases in February. Owing to the carelessness and indifference regarding vaccination of school children which had existed for some time the majority of our school children were unprotected. Through strict quarantine of cases, supervision of contacts, and wholesale vaccination of some 12,000 individuals, the majority of whom were of school age or under, the threatened epidemic was averted and overcome by April, 1927, during which no new cases occurred. In all 54 cases of smallpox, 4 of whom were from outside the city, were treated. Of these fifty per cent. were among children of school age or under, and of the total only 3 had been previously given any protection by vaccination, 2 of these three being old men past middle life who had been vaccinated in infancy. The value of vaccination as a means of control of smallpox was very definitely shown by the quick cessation of cases, after the intensive campaign of vaccination had been carried out. The Board of Health have to thank the City Commissioners for their support and public endorsement of the campaign of vaccination which was instituted and carried out. The value to the community of this campaign was not only the quick control of the epidemic but the large measure of protection afforded against any epidemic conditions which might threaten the city in the near future.

Polio-myelitis

The Polio-myelitis epidemic which reached its peak in August gradually subsided towards the end of September. In all 108 definite cases of the disease were quarantined and treated, most of them in the Isolation Hospital. The death rate was slightly over 10%, there having been 11 deaths, and of the remainder probably 20% will be affected permanently with paralytic conditions more or less severe. The mysterious nature of the disease, the sudden and unexpected deaths, and the lack of any known method of prevention other than general measures of quarantine and segregation caused a greater degree of apprehension in the public mind than any other

diseases, except the Influenza of 1918 and 1919, which have affected the community.

The admirable co-operation the Board of Health secured from the public generally in carrying out the measures of control instituted, no doubt assisted greatly in limiting the number of cases. It was quite apparent, however, that many hundreds of unreported cases of the disease, had the symptoms in so mild a form, quickly followed by complete recovery, that a definite diagnosis could not be made, even in the small proportion of these cases where a physician was called. The new Isolation Hospital proved to be of great service in isolating and providing proper and suitable care for the majority of the cases. Some of them are still suffering from the paralysis resulting from the disease, for which they are still undergoing treatment in the Provincial Hospital recently erected for the care of such cases.

While Edmonton was affected more seriously than other parts of the Province, the disease did not reach the proportions it has assumed in a large number of States of the American Union, where it prevailed for some time though gradually lessening.

Typhoid Fever

Of the 21 cases reported 17 were from outside the City and 4 City cases. Of these 4 City cases, two were nurses in one of our hospitals who contracted the disease from patients they were in contact with, one was a colored child living under very poor sanitary conditions and the fourth was a young woman who probably contracted the infection outside the City while on week-end vacations to the surrounding lake resorts. Of the 17 cases from outside points, 5 died giving the very high death rate of nearly 30 per cent. while one of the 4 City cases died or 25 per cent.

Scarlet Fever

The number of City cases reported during the year has been 257 as compared with 362 for the previous year. The expected rise in September following the opening of the schools did not take place this year and there appears to be definite indications that there was a tendency to a decided decrease in the incidence of Scarlet Fever in the last six months of the year. The great majority of the cases were of a mild type, only 2 deaths having occurred among the 257 city cases or less than 1 per cent. There were in addition 31 cases from the country districts, of which 2 died giving the mortality rate of over 6 per cent. This is due to the fact that only severe types of the disease were brought into the city for treatment.

Diphtheria

The number of cases for the year was 80 city cases with 2 deaths and 16 from outside districts with 2 deaths, a total of 96 showing an increase over the two previous years when 78 and 54 cases were reported. The 2 deaths among the city cases, shows however a very favorable reduction over 1926 when 10 deaths of city cases occurred. In the latter months of the year the campaign of Toxoid inoculation for the prevention of Diphtheria was continued at the schools by the treatment of over 1,600 children who had not previously had it and it is anticipated that a decided reduction in the incidence of Diphtheria will be experienced during 1928. In none of the four cases where death resulted had the inoculation been given and only one case of the disease among the total of 96, had had previously the full inoculation treatment.

DEATHS DUE TO INFECTIOUS AND OTHER SPECIAL DISEASES AND PERCENTAGE OF CASES WHERE THE NUMBER CAN BE ASCERTAINED

	City		Per	Outside		Per
	Cases	Deaths	Cent.	Cases	Deaths	Cent.
Measles	43	0	—	6	1	16.6
Typhoid Fever	4	1	25	17	5	29
Scarlet Fever	257	2	.8	31	2	6.4
Diphtheria	80	2	2.5	16	2	12.5
Erysipelas	25	2	8	13	1	7.7
Whooping Cough	292	4	1.37	2	0	0
Influenza	—	19	—	—	—	—
Anterio-polio Myelitis	96	12	12.5	13	1	7.7
Tuberculosis (lungs)	—	14	—	—	15	—
Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	9	—	—	14	—
Cancer	—	59	—	—	51	—
Pneumonia lobar	—	18	—	—	7	—
Pneumonia Broncho	—	9	—	—	6	—

**City death rate per 100,000 Population, the City's Population being
Estimated at 67,000**

	Deaths			Rate per 100,000		
	1927	1926	1925	1927	1926	1925
Scarlet Fever	2	3	5	3	4.6	4.6
Typhoid Fever	1	0	0	1.5	0	0
Diphtheria	2	10	3	3	15	4.6
Tuberculosis (of lungs)	14	28	22	22.5	43	34
Tuberculosis (all other forms)	9	13	7	13	20	10
Influenza	2	33	12	3	22.4 21	12.6 13
Pneumonia	18	14	9	27	21	13
Broncho Pneumonia	9	14	14	13	21	21
Cancer	59	53	51	88	80	78
Polio-Myelitis	12	1	1	18	1.5	1.5
Whooping Cough	4	14	3	6	21	4.6

The above death rates per 100,000 show a very favorable decrease in Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Influenza, Whooping Cough and Tuberculosis as compared with 1926, while that for Cancer is gradually increasing. The rate for Polio-myelitis due to its special prevalence during 1927 is much above the normal.

Maternal Mortality

The deaths from puerperal causes, and rates per 1,000 births for the years 1925, 1926, 1927 are as follows:

	Deaths	Births	Rates per 1,000 Births
1925	10	1936	5.1
1926	9	1857	4.8
1927	13	1934	6.7

The rate for 1927 is unreasonably high but it is to be noted that 9 of the 13 deaths were cases brought in from the country districts to be confined in our hospitals. Quite probably lack of proper medical supervision, pre-natally contributed greatly to the high death rate in these outside city cases. As regards the City Mothers 4 deaths among them indicates a rate as low as is obtained under the most favorable conditions elsewhere and suggests proper care and treatment.

VACCINATIONS AND INOCULATIONS

A great increase in the number of cases taking advantage of free service from the Health Department occurred during the year, when 5,270 for immunity against Smallpox and 1,629 inoculations each given 3 times, were given as a prevention of Diphtheria. In addition a large number of cases were treated by the physicians of the city generally to whom the material was supplied free by the Department. It is very much to be desired that children should be immunized against Smallpox and Diphtheria in the first two years of life, as this is the most dangerous age especially for Diphtheria, and young children suffer so little inconvenience or indisposition from these preventive measures as compared with older children or adults.

VITAL STATISTICS

The following statistics for the last 4 years are based on a population of 60,000 to 67,000.

Year	Population	Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 Population
		Deaths	Population	
1924	60,000	500		8.33
1925	65,000	454		7
1926	65,000	535		8.23
1927	67,000	482		7.2

The above figures exclude non-resident deaths of which in 1927 there were 305. Including these the number of deaths in the city was 787.

Year	Population	Births		Birth Rate per 1,000 Population
		Births	Population	
1924	60,000	1846		30.7
1925	65,000	1936		29.7
1926	65,000	1857		28.57
1927	67,000	1934		28.7

The figures for 1927 indicate a slight increase in the birth rate, with 77 extra births as compared with 1926.

Marriages

Year	Marriages	Rate per 1,000 Population
1924	920	15.3
1925	977	15
1926	1093	17
1927	1115	18

The gradual increase in the marriage rate is an indication of improvement in economic conditions.

CHILD WELFARE DIVISION

Infantile Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Births

Year	Deaths Under One Year	Deaths All Ages	Per Cent.	Births	Rate Per 1,000 Births
1924	131	500	26.2	1846	70.9
1925	106	454	23.2	1936	54.8
1926	130	535	24	1857	70
1927	98	482	20.3	1934	50.67

The infantile mortality rate for 1927 is the lowest ever recorded for the city and approaches closely the very low rates usually obtained in coast cities such as Vancouver and Victoria where climatic conditions are so favorable to infant development and welfare. This satisfactory rate for the year is also indicated by the low percentage of the total deaths of 20.3 per cent., which is much below the average for previous years. As compared with 1924 it represents the saving of 29 infant's lives, the monetary value of which to the community is not less than \$50,000.

The above figures exclude the deaths of infants who died within a very short time after being brought for treatment to the city. If these infants from outside points are included the number of infant deaths would be 112 and the rate of infantile mortality 57.8.

According to monthly returns the deaths of infants were as follows:

Months	City Deaths	Outside City Deaths
January	13	0
February	20	2
March	5	1
April	8	2
May	7	1
June	5	2
July	8	0
August	4	3
September	9	2
October	5	0
November	2	0
December	12	1
Totals	98	14

The above figures show that the three winter months of January, February and December furnish 47 per cent. of the city deaths of infants while in the hot summer months of July, August and September the mortality is low. Due to the improvement in our milk supply and dissemination of knowledge regarding the proper feeding of infants through the work of our Child Welfare Clinic and Health Department Nurses, the heavy toll of infant life, which was in past years taken by that dread complaint, summer diarrhoea, is no longer in evidence.

The causes of death in the 112 infants dying during the year were as follows:

	City Cases	Outside City Cases
Premature birth	30	0
Broncho Pneumonia	6	1
Lobar Pneumonia	2	0
Pneumonia (not otherwise defined)	1	0
Congenital Malformations	7	2
Congenital Malformations of heart	5	0
Diarrhoea	6	2
Diseases peculiar to early infancy	5	1
Injury at birth	4	0
Influenza	2	0

Influenza with complications	3	0
Disease of Thyroid Gland	1	0
Disease of Thymus Gland	2	0
Disease of Spleen	1	0
Haemophilia	2	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	0
Infantile Convulsions	2	0
Hydrocephalus	2	0
Erysipelas	1	1
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	0
Whooping Cough	0	1
Meningococcus Myelitis	1	0
Tuberculosis (not pulmonary)	1	2
Other epidemic or endemic disease	0	1
Rickets	1	0
Congenital debility	1	2
Purpura Haemorrhagica	1	0
Epilepsy	1	0
Hernia	0	1
Intestinal obstruction	1	0
Disease of liver	1	0
Furuncle or (boils)	1	0
Poisoning by venomous animals	1	0
Accidental suffocation	1	0
Infanticide	1	0
Ill defined	1	0
Totals	98	14

Premature birth is the greatest cause of mortality given and accounts for almost 30 per cent. of the deaths.

Of the 112 infants whose deaths are recorded, the causes of death above given indicate:

Number born alive capable of sustaining life 44 or 40 per cent.

Number born alive incapable of sustaining life 68 or 60 per cent.

The ages at death of these infants were as follows:

	City Cases	Outside City Cases
Under 1 day	24	0
Under 1 week, over 1 day	25	0
Under 1 month over 1 week	10	0
In the first month	59	0
From 1st to 3rd month	12	6
From 3rd to 6th month	11	4
From 6th to 9th month	14	1
From 9th to 12th month	2	3
Totals	98	14

Of the 59 infants who died in the first month many were from outside points but investigation made into 20 of these cases gave the following information:

Two had pre-natal care for 8 months.

Twelve had pre-natal care for 3 to 6 months.

One had pre-natal care for 1 month.

Five had no pre-natal care whatever.

The above ages at death show that 25 per cent. of the city deaths were under 1 day of age that 49 cases or exactly 50 per cent. were under 1 week of age and that only 16 of the 98 survived over 6 months. It is thus apparent that the lowering of the infantile mortality is due to the saving of lives after 1 month of age and that if further reduction is to be effected it must be by concentrating on pre-natal care of the mothers and special attention during the early months of life especially the first month. Unfortunately few infants under 1 month of age owing to the necessity of full recovery of the mother are brought to the Clinic for advice during the first month of life and as already shown only 44 or 40 per cent. of the 112 infants who died, could have been saved in any case, the balance or 68 cases being born incapable of survival due to hopeless conditions. An analysis of the place of birth also indicates that the great majority of births in the city take place at our hospitals or nursing homes, where the infants are cared for during

the convalescence of the mother for from 2 to 3 weeks. It is therefore apparent that the heavy mortality in the first month of life is not due to any lack of proper care of either mother or child, but due to conditions which make survival very difficult if not impossible.

During the year 1927 (93) ninety-three Child Welfare Clinics were held in Room 604 Civic Block with a total attendance of three thousand six hundred and sixty-five (3,665), making an average attendance of 40 babies and pre-school children. One hundred and twenty-six (126) were referred to their family physician for treatment. The medical attendance at the Clinic has been given through the generosity of Dr. D. B. Leitch, Dr. F. J. Folinsbee and Dr. Mildred Folinsbee Newell. To them and the work of the visiting nurses of the Health Department, credit must be given for the increasingly excellent results from year to year in the lowering of the infantile mortality rate. Hearty co-operation was given at all times by the Victorian Order of Nurses to whom many of our pre-natal cases were referred and thanks are also due to various charitable organizations for clothing with which needy families were supplied during the year.

Illegitimate Births and Still Births

	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923
Births	1934	1855	1934	1846	1943
Illegitimate Births	114	119	109	99	98
Per Cent. Illegitimate	5.9	6.4	5.6	5.3	5
Still Births	66	61	83	48	49

Nationality of the 1934 Infants Born in 1927

Canadian	663	34.3 %
British Empire (Outside Canada)	641	33. %
United States	219	11.3 %
Other Nations	332	17. %
Unknown	79	4.4 %
	1934	100. %

The percentage of infants of British parentage is 67.3 per cent. or slightly over two-thirds. Adding to this the percentage from the United States we have 78.6 per cent. from Anglo-Saxon or English-speaking countries. The remainder or 21.4 per cent. is made up of 17 per cent. from non-English-speaking countries of Europe and 4.4 per cent. where it is not possible to definitely state the country or origin of the male parent. There has been a slight increase of the British born over 1926, when 66 per cent were so recorded.

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SANITATION

Through the activities of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year an effort has been made to keep sanitary condition up to as high a standard and to effect as much improvement as is possible under the handicaps necessarily imposed by the inordinate extension of our city limits in proportion to population and the economic condition resulting from haphazard and rapid growth previous to the great war during the period of highly inflated land values and speculative mania.

The extension of sewer and water facilities to all the remote districts of our city has not been possible and even where these facilities have been made available considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting all residences connected up largely due to the householder being financially unable to afford the initial expense. In this respect, the adoption of the recommendation made that the city should in suitable cases carry out installations of sewer and water facilities as a local improvement, will undoubtedly greatly improve matters in the future and enable a more complete enforcement of the sewer and water installation Bylaw to be carried out.

During the year there were 532 permits issued for plumbing of which 254 were for new buildings and 17 for yard hydrants. This would indicate that 261 installations were made in old houses or additions to plumbing in blocks already modernized. Deducting half of these from the estimated 1,000 houses with sewer and water not connected up leaves us with a balance of approximately 870 houses which still remain in contravention of the existing Bylaw and Public Health Act of the Province requiring all houses situated on the line of water and sewer to be fully modernized. It is very desirable that these 870 houses should be connected up to sewer and water

where their construction justifies such improvement or torn down and replaced by a more satisfactory type of dwelling in which installation of plumbing fixtures is feasible.

The bacteriological reports received during the year of the City water supply, indicate that it has been kept free from any dangerous contamination through the operation of our filtration, sedimentation and chlorination plants. During the year an additional sedimentation basin was under construction which when completed it is anticipated will provide clear water throughout the whole year, and overcome the difficulties due to suspended matter during periods of high water.

From the Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. R. Graham, the following Summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors is obtained:

Complaints received and dealt with	698
Complaints received from other Departments ..	83
Complaints unfounded	78
Complaints referred to other Departments ...	157
Complaints referred to garbage contractors	19
Number of licenses applied for (calling for special investigation)	343
Inspections made including 3,904 re-inspections ..	14,112
Notices issued for abatement of nuisances includ- ing 1,024 written notices	4,188
No. of Yard Hydrants applied for of which only 12 were granted	33

More satisfactory compliance with Health regulations than usual was secured during the year as only 15 prosecutions were necessary.

Number of Prosecutions	15
Number of Convictions	13
Number withdrawn	2

MEDICAL RELIEF

In co-operation with the Relief Department, attention has been given a large number of cases among the unfortunate, crippled, incurable and aged poor of our City. No special accommodation for such cases has as yet been provided by either City or Provincial Government and only a limited number of males can be given accommodation by the Salvation Army homes. As a result the hospitals of our City are frequently overcrowded through being compelled to provide accommodation for a large number of aged and incurable patients who should be provided for in a properly equipped and conducted home, the responsibility for providing which is equally divided between the City and the Province. The crying need for homes in our City for the aged and incurable class of both sexes, is yearly becoming more apparent and urgent. If such were provided it would greatly lessen the need for additional hospital accommodation so strongly advocated at present.

Through the operation of the Provincial Out-door Clinic, splendid service is being provided for the diagnosis and treatment of sickness and disability among the poorer classes in our Community.

BOARD OF HEALTH

During the year, in addition to 12 regular monthly meetings, 7 special meetings of the Board of Health were held. The meeting of the American Public Health Association held in Cincinnati was attended by the Medical Officer of Health in October.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The new ambulance provided early in the year has given very satisfactory service at a greatly reduced cost of operation as compared with 1926 as the following figures show:

	Total Services	No Charge Made	Amt. Fees Collected	Cost of Operation
1926	419	102 cases	\$689.50	\$1,117.08
1927	397	102 cases	\$695.50	\$ 698.48

BEECHMOUNT CEMETERY

During the year the collection of accounts for burials amounted to \$2,184.37, which was turned over to the Engineer's Department which is responsible for the maintenance of the Cemetery.

FOOD AND DAIRY INSPECTION DIVISION

The reports of the Food, Dairy and Milk Inspectors appended to this report indicate the scope of the work being carried out in safeguarding the public from fraud, adulteration or contamination of food and dairy products. The report of the Chief Food Inspector shows that over 25 tons of food products were condemned. A gradual improvement in the quality and purity of the public milk supply is shown in the Milk Inspector's report which is reflected in the improved health and lowered mortality among our infants and young children.

In concluding this report it gives great satisfaction to say that an increasing degree of co-operation with the public is being secured from year to year, and much less opposition to the efforts to improve the health and sanitary conditions of the community. A better understanding is gradually being developed as to the real sources of communicable disease and the means of prevention which may be used.

The employees of the Department have during the year given very efficient service and have been greatly assisted by the voluntary co-operation of the various organizations, departments and Boards with which the work of the Health Department is associated. In this connection an expression of appreciation is due the members of the Medical profession, the Medical Departments of the Public and Separate School Boards, the Hospitals, the University Clinic, the Salvation Army, the Engineers, Relief, Power House and Water and Police Departments, and the City Commissioners.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

T. H. WHITELAW,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1927

Dr. T. H. Whitelaw,
Medical Officer of Health,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I beg to submit the following report on the work of Food Inspection for the year ending December 31st, 1927.

Inspection of foodstuffs and premises have been regularly carried out in restaurants, hotel kitchens, bakeries, meat markets, grocery, fruit and confectionery stores, city markets, and abattoirs under city inspection during the past year.

The following is a summary of the work done during the year by this branch of the Department.

No. of inspections made	12,023
Meat Inspection	
Quarters of Beef inspected	8,685
Carcasses of Hogs inspected	3,501
Carcasses of Mutton inspected	1,824
Carcasses of Veal inspected	4,073
Meats Inspected and Condemned	
No. of Carcasses of Beef condemned	23
No. of Quarters of Beef condemned	3
No. of Portions of Beef condemned	250
No. of Carcasses of Beef rejected	1
No. of Carcasses of Hogs condemned	14
No. of Portions of Hogs condemned	360
No. of Carcasses of Mutton condemned	2
No. of Portions of Mutton condemned	339
No. of Carcasses of Veal condemned	5
No. of Carcasses of Veal rejected	5
Foodstuffs Condemned	
Beef	16,206
Pork	5,922
Mutton	1,790
Veal	600
Fish	287
Fowl	102 ½
Fruit	2,120
Vegetables	4,095
Eggs (109 ½ dozen)	163
Canned Goods	15,034
Flour	3,000
Bread (310 loaves)	387
Ice Cream (2 ¼ gallons)	16
Butter	3
Sundries	855
50,580 ½ lbs.	

Prosecutions

A storekeeper was fined \$3.00 and costs for failing to keep his store premises clean.

Samples of Foodstuffs Submitted for Analysis

Two samples of vinegar. Result—Sample taken from grocery store O.K. Sample received from customer diluted with equal volume of water.

Sample of Maple Syrup. Result—Variation not sufficient to be considered adulterated.

Sample of Salt. Result—Not contaminated with foreign material.

Ten (10) samples of "Cent" Candy. Result—Two samples contained paraffin.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. BURNET, M.R.C.V.S.,
Chief Food Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MILK INSPECTOR

Dr. T. H. Whitelaw,
Medical Officer of Health,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

In the course of the year there were taken seven hundred and eighty-six (786) samples from the various milk vendors to be examined for bacteria count being some forty-one less than the previous year. As the bacteria results keep improving from year to year, most of the entries come in the first column of our tabulation and last year it was thought wise to make a "special" column for those of fifty thousand and under. We perhaps might have placed this limit lower as this year sixty-three per cent. of all our samples come in the special column. This makes considerable improvement in the last few years. Of the samples taken two (2) were spoiled for examination by the presence of spreaders leaving (784) seven hundred and eighty-four actually counted. The results are tabulated according to months. It will be noticed that in every month but two, over half the samples were classed as special.

Months	Special	Under 100,000	100,000 200,000	200,000 300,000	300,000 400,000	400,000 500,000	500,000 1,000,000	Over 1,000,000	Spreaders	Total
January	37	9	11	3	2	1	2	1	0	66
February	28	11	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	50
March	48	16	9	3	0	2	3	0	0	81
April	50	7	2	3	1	2	1	2	0	68
May	11	3	3	4	2	1	1	0	1	26
June	40	22	10	6	5	4	5	6	0	98
July	39	6	6	3	0	1	0	0	0	55
August	69	8	3	1	2	0	2	0	0	85
September	57	10	5	3	1	0	1	3	1	81
October	37	10	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	54
November	48	9	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	63
December	30	6	10	5	2	2	3	1	0	59
Totals ..	494	117	75	36	17	13	18	14	2	786
Percentage...	63.0	15.0	9.5	4.6	2.2	1.6	2.3	1.8		
	1929	64.0	15.6	11.5	3.4	1.8	1.0	1.2	1.5	

Besides the samples included in the table there were four other private samples examined, three being fifty thousand or under and the fourth ninety thousand.

There were seven hundred and eighty-three (783) samples examined for butter fat, the average found being 3.83%. The average varied very little during the year except in May when it went down to 3.53%. Ten (10) special samples averaged 3.74%.

The sediment tests were good throughout the year with but very few exceptions.

Two (2) samples of cream were examined, one for butter fat giving 31%, the other for bacteria, giving 360 thousand. One (1) sample of milk was examined for the presence of typhoid with negative results.

One hundred and thirty applications for license to sell milk were considered of which one hundred and twenty-five (125) were approved and one (1) was still undisposed of at the end of the year. About two hundred inspections were made.

In connection with the Sanitary control of the outdoor swimming pools the usual chemical tests were made, and test solutions and standard color controls provided for each pool. In all two hundred and ninety-nine (299) samples of swimming pool water were taken for bacterial examination and

of these two hundred and thirty-five (235) gave counts of ten or under. Included in the sixty-four which went above this figure are a large number taken on hot days right after a maximum bathing load and before the water had had time to circulate through the filters again. Even under these extreme conditions the highest count obtained was twelve hundred and in no case was a positive colon bacillus test obtained.

Yours respectfully,

H. C. GRAHAM,
Milk Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF DAIRY INSPECTOR

Dr. T. H. Whitelaw,
Medical Officer of Health,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I herewith submit the following report on the inspection of dairies for the year ending December 31st, 1927.

Five hundred and seventeen (517) applications for dairy licenses were received, three hundred and eighty-seven (387) of which come under my report as follows:

	Totals	Granted	Refused	In Abeyance
Local and within 15-mile radius of city	292	290	1	1
Beaumont	10	10	0	0
Calmar	1	1	0	0
Cardiff	1	1	0	0
Denville	1	1	0	0
Dinant (near Camrose)	1	1	0	0
Fort Saskatchewan	1	1	0	0
Hobbema	1	1	0	0
Leduc	22	22	0	0
Millet	32	31	1	0
Morinville	2	2	0	0
North Cooking Lake	1	1	0	0
Riviere Qui Barre	2	2	0	0
St. Albert	9	9	0	0
Spruce Grove	3	3	0	0
Stony Plain	3	3	0	0
Villeneuve	2	2	0	0
Volmer	1	1	0	0
Wetaskiwin	2	2	0	0
	387	384	2	1

Three (3) licenses were suspended during the year. One of which was for not observing quarantine of non-tuberculin tested cattle, one on account of continued dirty conditions of premises and one on account of buildings not being improved to meet the dairy regulations.

Number of inspections made 1,310.

The premises of one dairy farmer who was retailing raw milk was quarantined on account of Polio-myelitis (Infantile Paralysis). Licensee observed quarantine and no dairy utensils or persons working in connection with the dairy entered the house.

During the epidemic of Polio-myelitis a very careful watch was kept on all milk retailers.

Respectfully submitted,

C. ELLINGER,
Dairy Inspector.

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